

The Epistles of John

Week 40: 1 John 5:13-21

What we've learned about the life of the early church is, of course, it wasn't perfect. For us it's not about getting back to first-century church life. First-century church life was as problematic, flawed, and difficult as 21st-century church life. What it is about is embodying the character and the ethics and the theology that are taught by the beloved disciple in these documents, and living out the gospel in such a way that when people look at us, they see Jesus.

Ben Witherington III

1 John 5:13-21

1 John 5:13 (ESV)

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:13-21

1 John 5:14–15 (ESV)

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

1 John 5:13-21

1 John 5:16–17 (ESV)

If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

1 John 5:6-12

Why is it not clear what John was referring to?

Time: 2000 years have gone by

Place: a foreign country

Culture: a society and background outside of our experience

Examples (Place yourself 2,000 years in the future in the nation of China):

- Windows Computer
- Electoral College
- Sunshine State
- White House

1 John 5:13-21

Three Things We Know:

1 John 5:18–20 (ESV)

We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is **true**; and we are in him who is **true**, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the **true** God and eternal life.

1 John 5:13-21

The Closing Verse

1 John 5:21 (ESV)

Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Application for This Week

Summary of 1 , 2 & 3 John:

What we've learned about the life of the early church is, of course, it wasn't perfect. For us it's not about getting back to first-century church life. First-century church life was as problematic, flawed, and difficult as 21st-century church life. What it is about is embodying the character and the ethics and the theology that are taught by the beloved disciple in these documents, and living out the gospel in such a way that when people look at us, they see Jesus.

— Ben Witherington III

Homework

My blog with the entire series on 1, 2, & 3 John is:

www.UnapologeticallyJohn.com

Thank you for coming!
